

SERIAL NO.: 09/229,28
FILED: January 13, 1999

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

1. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method for diagnosing melanoma which comprises:
 - (a) contacting *in vitro* a biological specimen containing malignant cells with a probe which selectively recognizes microphthalmia (Mi); and
 - (b) determining whether Mi is being expressed in the specimen by the probe's binding to Mi, wherein said binding is indicative of Mi expression and, wherein the expression of Mi in a malignant cell is indicative of melanoma.
2. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the probe is an antibody for Mi.
3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 1, wherein the probe detects the presence of an mRNA expressing Mi.
4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 1, wherein the biological specimen consists of malignant cells.
5. (WITHDRAWN)
6. (WITHDRAWN)
7. (WITHDRAWN)
8. (WITHDRAWN)
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10. (WITHDRAWN)
11. (WITHDRAWN)
12. (WITHDRAWN)

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13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 2, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.
14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 13, wherein the antibody binds to an epitope in the N-terminus Taq-Sac fragment of human Mi.
15. (NEW) A method for screening for melanoma using immunohistochemistry to determine whether microphthalmia (Mi) is expressed comprising:
 - (a) contacting *in vitro* a biological specimen containing malignant cells with an antibody that binds to an epitope in the N-terminus Taq-Sac fragment of human Mi; and
 - (b) determining whether Mi is being expressed by the binding of the antibody to Mi, wherein said binding is indicative of Mi expression and, wherein the expression of Mi in a malignant cell is indicative of melanoma.
16. (NEW) The method of claim 15, wherein the biological sample is on a slide.
17. (NEW) The method of claim 15, wherein the antibody is used to determine where in the malignant cell the Mi is expressed.